

IN THE CLAIMS:

A clean version of all pending claims is set forth below:

1. *(Once Amended)* A system for enabling users connected to an on-line analytical processing (OLAP) system over a network to select formatting options for reports for processing by the OLAP system, comprising:
- report requesting means for enabling a user to select a workbook comprising one or more reports to be requested for processing by the OLAP system; and
- format specification means for enabling the user to select the format for each report in the workbook.
2. *(Once Amended)* The system of claim 1 wherein the format specification means enables the user to specify multiple levels of formats to be applied to the reports in the workbook.
3. *(Once Amended)* The system of claim 2 wherein the multiple levels of formats are applied in a hierarchical manner so that lower level formats supersede higher [lever] level formats.
4. *(Once Amended)* The system of claim 3 wherein the levels of formats comprise global formats, report formats, attribute/element/metric formats, and value formats in that hierarchical order.

5. *(Once Amended)* The system of claim 1 wherein the format of one of the workbooks comprises a merged report format.

6. *(Once amended)* The system of claim 1 wherein the format of one of the reports comprises a combined grid and graph.

7. *(Once Amended)* The system of claim 1 wherein the format comprises rules to be applied to the report that the user may specify.

8. *(Once Amended)* The system of claim 1 wherein the format of a report comprises an autoformat that enables each recipient of the report to specify the format in which that recipient views the report when the report is received.

9. *(Once Amended)* The system of claim 1 wherein the format of a report comprises a scripted format created by a user for specialized formatting of the report.

10. *(Once Amended)* A method for enabling users connected to an on-line analytical processing (OLAP) system over a network to select formatting options for reports requested for processing by the OLAP system, the method comprising the steps of:

enabling a user to select a workbook comprising one or more reports to be requested for processing by the OLAP system; and

enabling the user to select the format for each report in the workbook.

11. The method of claim 10 further comprising the step of enabling the user to specify multiple levels of formats to be applied to the reports in the workbook.

12. *(Once Amended)* The method of claim 11 wherein the multiple levels of formats are to be applied in a hierarchical manner so that lower level formats supersede higher level formats.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein the levels of formats comprise global formats, report formats, attribute/element/metric formats, and value formats in that hierarchical order.

14. The method of claim 10 wherein the format of one of the workbooks comprises a merged report format.

15. The method of claim 10 wherein the format of one of the reports comprises a combined grid and graph.

16. The method of claim 10 wherein the format comprises rules to be applied to the report that the user may specify.

17. The method of claim 10 further comprising the step of enabling the user to specify the format of a report to be an autoformat that enables each recipient of the report to specify the format in which that recipient views the report when the report is received.

18. *(Once Amended)* An electronic storage medium having code embodied therein for causing a processing system to enable users connected to an on-line analytical processing (OLAP) over a network to specify formatting options for reports requested for processing by the OLAP system, the medium comprising:

code for causing a processor to enable a user to select a workbook comprising one or more reports to be requested for processing by the OLAP system; and

code for causing a processor to enable a user to select the format for each report in the workbook.

19. The medium of claim 18 further comprising code for causing a processor to enable the user to specify multiple levels of formats to be applied to the reports in the workbook.

20. (*Once Amended*) The medium of claim 19 wherein the multiple levels of formats are to be applied in a hierarchical manner so that lower level formats supersede higher level formats.

21. The medium of claim 18 further comprising code for causing a processor to select a merged report format.

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22. The medium of claim 18 further comprising code for causing a processor to enable a user to select the format of a report to include a combined grid and graph.

23. The medium of claim 18 further comprising code for causing a processor to enable a user to select the format of a report to be an autoforamt that enables each recipient of the report to specify the format in which that recipient views the report when the report is received.

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24. (*Newly Added*) A system for enabling users connected to an on-line analytical processing (OLAP) system over a network to select formatting options for reports for processing by the OLAP system, comprising:

report requesting means for enabling a user to select a workbook for processing by the OLAP system, wherein the workbook comprises a plurality of reports;

format specification means for enabling the user to select a format for each of the plurality of reports comprising the workbook; and

processing means for processing the plurality of reports asynchronously.